

What is claimed is:

1. A strain of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, which can contain 1% by weight or more of  $\gamma$ -glutamylcysteine and contains 0.004-0.1% by weight of glutathione during  
5 its logarithmic growth phase, when the strain is cultured in a medium in which a glutathione synthetase deficient strain of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* shows a slower growth rate than a wild strain.
- 10 2. The strain of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* according to claim 1, wherein the medium in which a glutathione synthetase deficient strain of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* shows a slower growth rate than a wild strain is a medium not containing glutathione or a medium not  
15 containing glutathione,  $\gamma$ -glutamylcysteine, L-cysteine and cystine.
3. The strain of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* according to claim 2, wherein the medium is a minimal  
20 medium.
4. A strain of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, wherein glutathione synthetase encoded by a glutathione synthetase gene on a chromosome has deletion of a C-  
25 terminus region from an arginine residue at a position of 370.

5. Yeast extract produced by culturing a strain of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* according to any one of claims 1-4 in a suitable medium and utilizing the obtained cells.

6. A method for breeding a strain of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* containing  $\gamma$ -glutamylcysteine, comprising the steps of:

constructing recombinant strains of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* in which glutathione synthetase gene is modified by a gene recombination technique and selecting a recombinant strain that contains 0.004-0.1% by weight of glutathione during its logarithmic growth phase when the strain is cultured in a medium in which a glutathione synthetase deficient strain of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* shows a slower growth rate than a wild strain.